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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES IMPORTS OF PORK FROM POLAND

The following information may be useful in analyzing and understanding the present situation in regard to imports of pork products by the United States with particular emphasis on shipments from Poland:

1. The Department has no authority to prohibit imports of meat products as long as certain sanitary requirements are met.

2. The import duty on fresh or frozen pork is 1-1/4 cents per pound; for canned hams and shoulders, 3-1/4 cents; for cured hams or bacon, 2 cents; and for cured sausage (not canned), 1-5/8 cents.

3. Imports of pork products from Poland during 1955 totaled 24.9 million pounds compared with 20.3 million a year earlier. The imports from Poland during 1955 made up 15 percent of the 162.2 million pounds of all types of pork imported (imports of canned hams and shoulders totaled 100 million pounds). Imported pork made up 1.6 percent of domestic consumption of pork during the year. Imports from Poland accounted for about 1/4 of 1 percent of total pork consumption. No imports of other kinds of meats were received from Poland in 1954 and 1955.

4. Prices of the Polish hams are nearly always higher than other imported hams. All imported hams are more expensive than domestically produced canned hams or regular cured hams.

5. Most of the leading exporters of pork to the United States -- Canada, Western Germany, Denmark, and The Netherlands -- are good customers for lard, tallow, hides, variety meats and other meat products produced in the United States, which is of direct benefit to domestic livestock producers. Exports of U.S. meat products to Poland in 1955 included 661,000 pounds of lard, 1.7 million pounds of tallow, and 54,000 cattle hides.

The Department of Agriculture has a number of special programs in operation to assist domestic hog producers. Since last fall it has been buying lard and pork for use under the National School Lunch Program and other authorized outlets. It has entered into negotiations with foreign governments to sell over 117 million pounds of U.S. lard, 28 million pounds of pork, and 19 million pounds of tallow and greases under the provisions of Public Law 480. Such sales will result in a substantial increase in United States exports in 1956.

Further details on "United States Foreign Trade in Livestock, Meat and Meat Products" is available in Foreign Agricultural Service's circular FLM-3, dated March 16, 1956.

April 17, 1956.

